



**STENNIS SPACE CENTER**

## **Commercial Remote Sensing Program Office Fact Sheet**

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The Commercial Remote Sensing Program (CRSP) Office at John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi leads NASA's work with U.S. companies to dominate remote sensing data and service markets. NASA/industry partnerships, marketed by Integrated Product Development Teams and led by industry, are used to conduct joint research, development and testing programs emphasizing advanced remote sensing technologies.

As NASA's lead center for the commercialization of remote sensing applications, Stennis Space Center works to assist companies involved in environmental consulting, land use planning and natural resource management. Through these co-funded partnerships, companies use NASA-developed technology to develop information products. Remotely sensed data is used for monitoring agricultural resources, the effects of natural disasters, urban growth and the health of coastal beaches and ecosystems.

Remote sensing involves looking at objects, predominately the Earth's features, from a distance by using sensors that are either ground-based or mounted on aircraft and spacecraft. Ground-based remote sensing systems look out over the horizon while air-based systems look down on the surface. Pictures or imagery acquired from these systems may be referenced to a coordinate system to produce current maps.

Digital imagery data is then displayed using desktop computer systems. These data may be viewed many different ways using popular graphic display software packages. The tremendous amount of detailed geographic information contained in the individual scenes of remotely sensed data enables buildings, roads, streams, fields, crops and many other land types to be identified.

There are many ways companies can examine remote sensing technologies for enhancing their business. Some companies that have not traditionally used remote sensing to accomplish their work have an excellent opportunity through the Visiting Investigator Program (VIP). This program is a way to investigate and evaluate a broad range of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) technology. GIS technology is a computerized way to take an in-depth look at a specific area on Earth. The VIP is used by companies involved in environmental consulting, land use planning and natural resources management.

Many businesses already use remotely sensed data to develop products. These businesses have an opportunity to partner with NASA in packaging and demonstrating the market viability of new products through the competitive selection of an Earth Observations Commercial Applications Program (EOCAP) contract. With co-funded partnerships, managed by SSC personnel, companies use NASA-developed technology to develop information products. Through EOCAP, remote sensing is now being used to improve the growth and harvesting of potato crops, to improve efforts to assess the environmental impact of oil and chemical spills, to protect the environment and to manage Earth's natural resources.

In addition to directly assisting businesses, the CRSP at Stennis Space Center is involved in the development of many new and innovative types of remote sensing systems. Scientists working with the Mission to Planet Earth Program are planning for the collection of important data sets that will enable them to measure, map and monitor conditions on the Earth's surface and atmosphere to model the global climate. Many new sensor systems will be launched into space as part of the Earth Observing System, which is a global maintaining capability. NASA's Small Spacecraft Technology Initiative is supporting the launch of the Lewis and Clark systems in mid-1996, which will provide access to very high resolution data from space in the near future.

**For more information about Stennis Space Center's Commercial Remote Sensing Program office, call (601) 688-2042.**



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